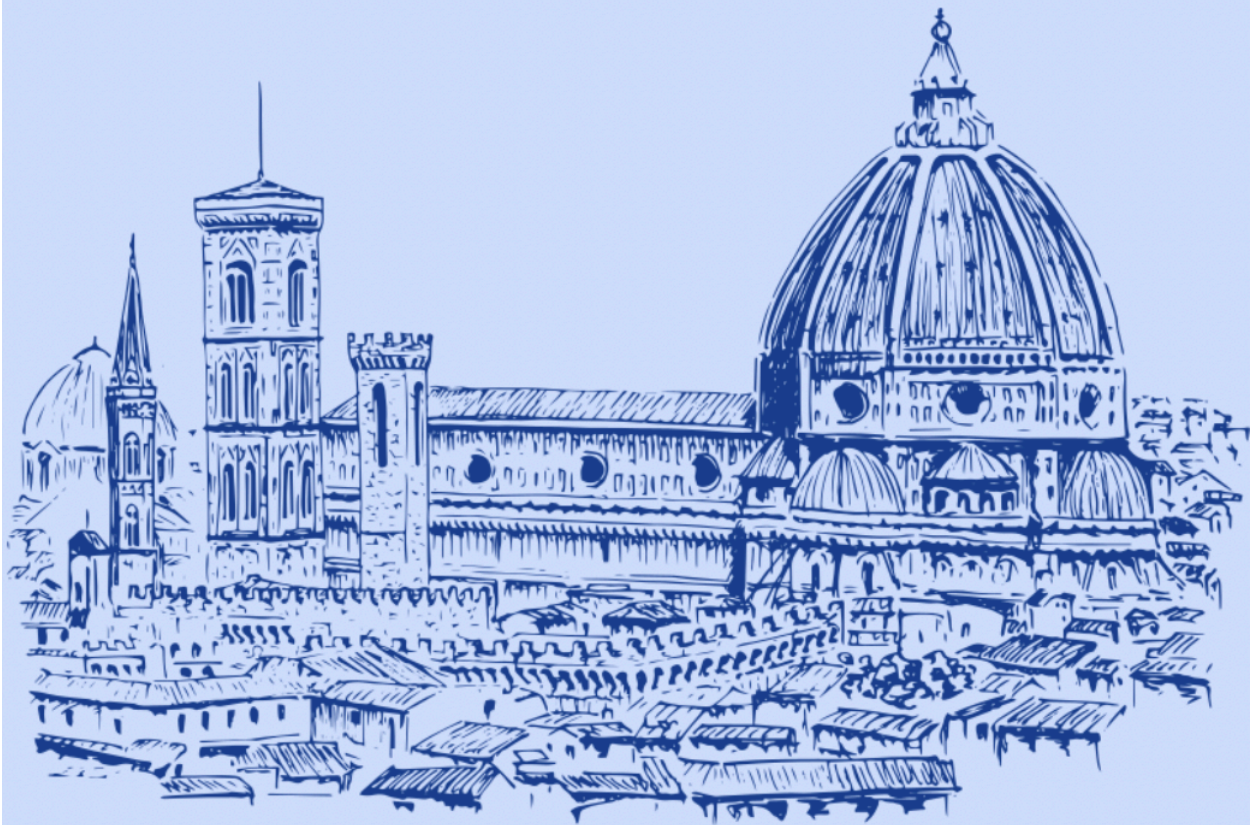


RESEARCH GUIDE

Security Council



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Topic: (2) Solving concerns around the corruption in Haiti

Chairs: Coco Ferrari-Ross and Julius Gutbrod

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I. Introduction

Once the wealthiest colony in the Americas, Haiti is now the Western Hemisphere's poorest country, with more than half of its population living below the World Bank's poverty line.

Foreign intervention and debt, political instability, and natural disasters have long stymied development efforts in Haiti, where governance remains paralyzed by a presidential assassination and violent civil unrest.

While the Joe Biden administration has ruled out sending U.S. troops to the island, it has pledged to provide financial support for a UN-authorized, Kenya-led multinational force to fight Haiti's powerful gangs.

Corruption has been a longstanding issue in Haiti, affecting various sectors, including the government.

The country has faced challenges related to political instability, economic struggles, and natural disasters, all of which have contributed to an environment where corruption can thrive.

Historically, Haiti has ranked poorly in global corruption perception indices. Factors such as weak institutions, inadequate legal frameworks, and a lack of effective enforcement mechanisms have facilitated corrupt practices. Corruption in the Haitian government can manifest in various forms, including bribery, embezzlement, nepotism, and misuse of public funds.

Efforts to address corruption in Haiti have been ongoing, both domestically and with the support of the international community. However, progress has been slow, and challenges persist. Addressing corruption requires comprehensive reforms, strengthening institutions, improving transparency, and promoting accountability at all levels of government.



II. Definition of Key Terms and Events

Corruption

The abuse of entrusted power for private gain, including bribery, embezzlement, nepotism, and patronage.

Transparency International

An international organization that ranks countries based on their perceived levels of public sector corruption. Haiti has consistently ranked poorly in these assessments.

Petty Corruption

Refers to small-scale corruption that occurs at the lower levels of government, such as bribery for basic services like healthcare or education.

Grand Corruption

Involves high-ranking government officials or elites using their positions for personal enrichment through large-scale embezzlement or kickbacks from major contracts.

Prevalence of Corruption

Haiti has long been plagued by corruption across various sectors, including government, law enforcement, judiciary, and business.

Duvalier Regime

The dictatorship of François "Papa Doc" Duvalier and his son Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier, which ruled Haiti with an iron fist from 1957 to 1986. The regime was marked by widespread human rights abuses and corruption.

Jean-Bertrand Aristide

Elected as Haiti's first democratically elected president in 1990, Aristide faced allegations of corruption during his presidency, leading to his ousting in 1991 and again in 2004.

United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH)

A UN peacekeeping mission deployed to Haiti in 2004 following political instability and violence. The mission faced allegations of corruption and misconduct among its personnel.

2010 Earthquake

A devastating earthquake struck Haiti in January 2010, exacerbating existing socio-economic challenges and corruption issues. International aid and reconstruction efforts were marred by allegations of mismanagement and corruption.

PetroCaribe Scandal

A corruption scandal involving the misappropriation of funds from Venezuela's PetroCaribe oil program, intended to provide Haiti with discounted oil. The scandal implicated several high-ranking officials and sparked widespread protests demanding accountability.

Moïse Administration

Jovenel Moïse was elected president in 2017 amidst promises to combat corruption. However, his tenure was marked by allegations of corruption, leading to widespread protests and calls for his resignation.

Independent Commission for the Evaluation and Verification of the Electoral Process

Created in response to the disputed 2015 elections, the commission uncovered irregularities and fraud, further undermining public trust in Haiti's political institutions.

III. General Overview

Lack of trust in political institutions, frequent changes in government, and difficulty in implementing effective policies for the country's development.

Corruption hampers economic growth by diverting resources away from essential public services and infrastructure projects. Funds that could be used for education, healthcare, and poverty alleviation are often misappropriated, hindering the overall economic progress of the nation.

Corruption exacerbates social inequality by favoring a few individuals or groups with access to power and resources. This unequal distribution of benefits can lead to increased poverty and dissatisfaction among the general population.

Widespread corruption contributes to a weakened rule of law in Haiti. When individuals and institutions responsible for upholding the law are compromised, it becomes challenging to ensure justice and hold corrupt officials accountable.

Corruption can be linked to human rights abuses, as those in power may exploit their positions for personal gain while disregarding the rights and well-being of the population. This can lead to a cycle of impunity and a lack of justice for victims of abuse.

International aid and assistance to Haiti can be negatively affected by corruption. Donor countries and organizations may be hesitant to provide financial support if there are concerns about the misuse of funds, hindering the country's ability to recover from natural disasters or address other pressing issues.

Corruption erodes public trust in institutions, making it difficult for citizens to engage with the political process or believe in the effectiveness of government initiatives. This lack of trust can impede efforts to build a stable and prosperous society.

Recent natural disasters and public health crises

Haiti is prone to natural disasters, including hurricanes, earthquakes, and floods. These events can devastate crops, disrupt food supply chains, and exacerbate existing food insecurity issues.

The August 2021 earthquakes caused at least 2,200 deaths and widespread destruction. 2024 Haiti faces a complex and challenging situation two years after the devastating earthquake. Issues like a lack of fuel, increased insecurity due to gang violence, and challenges in logistics continue to hamper humanitarian efforts to support vulnerable Haitian communities.

Political instability has been a recurrent issue in Haiti, impacting governance, economic development, and public services. This instability can hinder effective policy implementation and exacerbate social and economic challenges.

The 2021 assassination of President Moïse on July 7. The suspect killers were a group of Colombian drug cartel and gang leaders. During Moïse's time in office, political unrest and violence were common, including violent anti-government protests.

Corruption in various sectors, including the government, can divert resources away from essential services and contribute to inefficiencies in addressing the country's challenges, including hunger.

Haiti is one of the poorest countries in the Western Hemisphere, and a significant portion of its population lives below the poverty line. Limited economic opportunities and income disparities contribute to food insecurity.

Challenges in infrastructure, including roads and transportation, can impede the distribution of food and other essential resources, especially in rural areas.

Previous efforts instituted to help aid Haiti

Efforts to address corruption and support Haiti's development have involved both domestic initiatives and international assistance. Some of the key actions taken by the international community include aid from various NGOs . This aid often includes financial support for development projects, technical assistance, and capacity-building programs.

Haiti has taken steps to strengthen its anti-corruption framework. This includes the establishment of anti-corruption agencies such as the International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities (IAACA). The development of anti-corruption laws, and efforts to improve the effectiveness of law enforcement and judicial systems in combating corruption.

International organizations and donor countries such as Algeria, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Gambia, Namibia, Senegal and Tunisia have provided support for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of anti-corruption measures in Haiti. This includes assistance in implementing reforms and promoting good governance practices.

Possible solutions to solve corruption and provide aid to Haiti

Generally speaking the most important incentives that delegates could make in their clauses or in debate should revolve around addressing corruption, political instability, and economically developing Haiti.

In order to do so delegates should prioritize strengthening pre-existing institutions and or reinventing new institutions including the judiciary, law enforcement agencies, and anti-corruption bodies. Improving the capacity and independence of these institutions is crucial for effective governance without corruption.

Implementing and enforcing anti-corruption laws, and establishing effective mechanisms for monitoring and punishing corrupt practices would also be extremely effective when tackling corruption within government. This could involve creating or enhancing anti-corruption agencies and providing them with the necessary resources and authority.

Providing humanitarian assistance in response to immediate needs, such as natural disasters or public health crises. And ensuring that aid is delivered efficiently and reaches those most in need.

IV. Major Parties Involved and their Views

a) United States

The country has historically been a significant contributor to humanitarian aid, development projects, and disaster relief efforts in Haiti. The U.S. government, as well as non-profit organizations and private entities, have played active roles in various initiatives. U.S. Invasion and Occupation of Haiti, 1915–34. Following the assassination of the Haitian President in July of 1915, President Woodrow Wilson sent the United States Marines into Haiti to restore order and maintain political and economic stability in the Caribbean. This occupation continued until 1934.

b) Canada

It is mainly involved in providing humanitarian assistance, development aid, and supporting initiatives aimed at addressing poverty and improving healthcare and education in Haiti. Canada is the second-largest bilateral donor to Haiti after the United States.

c) The European Union

As a collective entity, it has provided financial support and aid to Haiti. EU member states, individually and collectively, contribute to various programs aimed at addressing humanitarian and developmental challenges. The EU has been providing assistance to Haiti since 1994, with humanitarian funding totalling over €482 million.

d) **Brazil**

The State has been involved in peacekeeping efforts in Haiti through its participation in the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). Brazilian military personnel have played a key role in maintaining stability.

e) **France**

As a former colonial power in Haiti, France has maintained an interest in the country. France has been involved in both humanitarian aid and development initiatives.

f) **Venezuela**

The State has been involved in providing aid and support to Haiti, including through the PetroCaribe initiative, which involves the supply of oil at preferential terms.

g) **Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)**

Numerous international NGOs, such as Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders), Oxfam, and CARE, have been actively involved in providing humanitarian assistance, healthcare, education, and other essential services.

V. Relevant UN Documents and Articles

United Nation Security council hearings

<https://press.un.org/en/2022/sc15161.doc.htm>

Human rights watch

<https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2022/country-chapters/haiti>

Council on foreign relations

<https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/haitis-troubled-path-development>

Jstor

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/resrep36471>

United nations Human rights

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/news/2023/10/deputy-high-commissioner-human-rights-expresses-deep-concern-widespread-deterioration>

E-Library general overview

<https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/journals/002/2020/122/article-A003-en.xml>

World bank

chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/<https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/709131656602892706/pdf/Haiti-Systematic-Country-Diagnostic-Update-Pathways-to-Responding-to-Recurrent-Crises-and-Chronic-Fragility.pdf>

United Nations Justice program

<https://www.trade.gov/country-commercial-guides/haiti-market-overview>

VI. Questions to consider

What laws and regulations are currently in place to combat corruption, and how effective are they?

How can the enforcement of anti-corruption measures be improved, including the capacity-building of law enforcement agencies and judiciary?

What measures can be taken to depoliticize key institutions and ensure their independence from undue influence?

What measures can be taken to promote inclusive economic growth and reduce inequality, which can help address some of the root causes of corruption?

What measures can be implemented to ensure public officials are held accountable for their actions, including the establishment of independent oversight bodies?

VII. Conclusion

In conclusion, addressing corruption in Haiti requires a concerted effort that tackles both systemic issues within governance structures and the socio-economic factors driving corrupt practices. Key terms and significant events, such as those mentioned above, underscore the pervasive nature of corruption in Haiti and its detrimental effects on the country's development and stability.

The prevalence of corruption, from petty bribery to grand embezzlement, has hindered Haiti's progress for decades, undermining public trust in institutions and exacerbating socio-economic disparities. Historical events, such as the Duvalier regime and the 2010 earthquake, have further compounded these challenges, while subsequent administrations have struggled to effectively combat corruption.

The PetroCaribe scandal and allegations surrounding the Moïse administration serve as stark reminders of the urgent need for transparency, accountability, and institutional reforms. International cooperation, civil society engagement, and efforts to promote economic development and poverty alleviation are essential components of any anti-corruption strategy in Haiti.

In moving forward, Haiti must prioritize the strengthening of legal frameworks, enforcement mechanisms, and anti-corruption institutions. Moreover, fostering a culture of integrity, promoting ethical behavior, and empowering citizens to demand accountability are crucial steps towards building a more transparent and accountable society.

Ultimately, resolving corruption in Haiti is not only a matter of governance but also a moral imperative for the well-being and prosperity of its people. By addressing corruption head-on and implementing comprehensive reforms, Haiti can lay the foundation for sustainable development, social justice, and a brighter future for generations to come.

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chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcgclefindmkaj/<https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Appendix-C-Developments-in-Haiti-004977.pdf>

<https://www.transparency.org/en/countries/haiti>

<https://www.voanews.com/a/haiti-reveals-colossal-loss-of-4m-worth-of-corruption-/6718965.html>

<https://www.csis.org/analysis/good-governance-and-corruption-caribbean-haitian-challenge>

<https://www.africanews.com/2024/01/09/haiti-former-presidents-and-prime-ministers-accused-of-corruption/>

<https://www.state.gov/combating-systemic-corruption-in-haiti/>

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/americas/haitian-judge-orders-arrest-of-former-presidents-prime-ministers-for-corruption/3103577>